

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4  
Columbia River Compact  
September 15, 2000**

<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fishing options.
<b>TAC:</b>	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

## Management Guidelines

### ***Endangered Species Act***

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
<i>Southwest Washington</i>	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.

### ***2000 Management Agreement***

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the aggregate URB run.
- The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

### **State Guidelines**

- In May 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that all fisheries will be managed such that aggregate impacts not exceed a 13.3% harvest rate on coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River.
- Harvest rates on LRW fall chinook should not exceed 10% in ocean and Columbia River fisheries in accordance with Washington state's wild salmonid policy.

## **2000 Stock Status**

### **Summer Steelhead**

<b>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</b>					
		September 13 Daily	Cumulative through September 13		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	----	16,500	7,200	9,500
	Group A Index	1,600	199,800	160,500	157,000
	Group B Index	1,200	25,400	11,000	10,200
	Total Counts	2,800	241,700	178,700	176,700
The Dalles		3,200	144,500	114,300	90,300
John Day		6,900	116,900	87,800	65,500
McNary		2,200	63,100	46,300	45,500
Ice Harbor		3,100	38,000	32,600	29,200
Lower Granite		1,200	20,700	16,700	12,000
Priest Rapids		150	8,100	5,700	4,700

- On September 13 Bonneville Dam flow was 137 kcfs which is 118% of the recent 10-year average of 115 kcfs. Water temperature was 68°F which is less than the recent 10-year average of 69°F.
- To date 60% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have crossed The Dalles Dam which is 128% of the recent 10-year average of 47%.
- The Group B index count to date has been comprised of 28% wild fish. Typically 70% of the wild run and 51% of the hatchery run has passed Bonneville Dam by September 13.
- TAC reviewed steelhead run size data. Group A index steelhead passage is still on track for counts of 65,000 wild (23% greater than forecast of 52,700) and 157,000 hatchery (at forecast) fish past Bonneville Dam. Group B steelhead counts are still tracking at preseason forecasted levels of 22,000 hatchery and 11,000 wild.

<b>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</b>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,400	27	143,300	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	17	38,400	83	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,700	78	57,400
1993	28,600	21	108,100	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	20	22,300	80	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,800	14	11,400	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,600	85	174,300	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,400	85	208,300	3,900	11	32,700	89	36,000
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	8	36,800	92	40,200
1999	56,600	32	119,800	68	176,400	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
<b>2000 Proj.</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>157,300</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>222,300</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33,800</b>

### **Fall Chinook**

<b>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</b>					
		September 13 Daily	Cumulative through September 13		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	2,378	141,900	137,300	127,200
	Tules	172	20,300	37,400	25,700
	Total Counts	2,550	162,200	174,700	152,900
The Dalles		2,500	100,500	82,100	70,000
John Day		2,400	72,800	59,800	47,300
McNary		1,200	44,400	36,400	31,200
Priest Rapids		800	24,100	19,600	10,800
Ice Harbor		200	3,300	2,800	1,600
Lower Granite		100	1,400	900	500

- Typically 73% of the bright adult run and 82% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam by September 13. Run timing is early.
- The McNary Dam count is expected to exceed the 45,000 escapement goal for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Fall chinook passage is less than preseason expectations with the inseason updates for brights being 79% of preseason forecast and tules being 80% of preseason forecasts.

<b>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</b>				
Stock	1995-1999 Average	1999 Return	2000 Preseason Forecast	September 14 Update
URB	144,100	166,100	208,200	163,700
SRW	1,800	2,739	1,764	1,764
MCB	47,800	49,600	58,400	45,900
BPH	32,900	50,200	26,900	20,100
LRH	52,700	40,000	26,400	26,400
LRW	10,700	3,300	2,700	2,700
LRB	NA	1,100	3,200	2,500
SAB	4,200	2,900	3,100	3,100
Total	289,000	313,100	328,900	264,400

- Based on 25,500 bright jacks passing Bonneville Dam through September 13 returns are projected to total about 60,000 which would be the largest count since 1988.
- Based on 9,000 tule jacks, including large size jacks, passing Bonneville Dam through September 13 which is the largest count on record.
- Dam counts in the Snake River are tracking significantly ahead of last year and the recent 5-year average based on a normal timed run.
- The preseason expectation was for a return of 564 wild fish past lower Granite Dam.

Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns						
Hatchery/Stock	Escapement					Comments
	Returns	As of:	Preseason Projected	Inseason Update	Goal	
Elokomin LRH	400	9/11	2,500	--	720	Goal expected to be achieved.
Cowlitz LRH	100	"	2,900	--	3,830	Too early.
Toutle LRH	45	"	1,400	--	1,910	Too early.
Kalama LRH			2,000	--	1,670	Goal exceeded.
Washougal LRH	0	9/11	1,800	--	2,760	Too early.
Total WA LRH			10,600		10,890	
Big Creek LRH	1,670	9/11	2,700	3,300	3,000	Typically 40-65% complete.
Bonneville LRH			100		--	Last year of LRH returns.
Total OR LRH			2,800			
Klaskanine SAB			990	--	--	Trap opens Monday.
Big Creek SAB	32	9/11	100	--	--	Releases discontinued in 1997.
Total SAB			1,090		1,500	
Bonneville BUB	1,190	9/12	7,000	--	4,500	Typically 5-45% complete.

- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 13 are 3,477 males, 1,949 females, and 3,553 jacks.
- Currently daily returns to Spring Creek Hatchery are ranging between 50-100 females per day.
- Spring Creek is expected not to achieve the escapement goal of 4,000 females.

## ***Coho Salmon***

- The preseason projection for Columbia River coho return was 450,200 adults, the highest since 1991. The return is expected to be comprised of 253,600 early stock (highest since 1991) and 196,600 late stock (highest since 1991).
- Upriver coho returns are tracking ahead of preseason expectations with 46,800 adults passing Bonneville Dam through September 13. Passage is typically 15-60% complete by this date.
- A total of 5,624 adults have entered Bonneville Hatchery through September 12. Return is typically 5-35% complete by this date.
- Wild early stock coho returns to the Clackamas River are improved over to recent years with 693 adults counted at North Fork Dam through September 13. Early stock adult passage is typically 5-50% complete by this time period.
- Sandy river returns to date are just beginning with 26 adults passing Marmot Dam through September 11.

## **Sport Fishery Updates**

### ***Buoy 10 Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 sport fishery opened August 1 for chinook salmon, adipose fin marked coho, and adipose fin marked steelhead, with a daily catch limit of two fish of which only one can be a chinook.
- A 9,000 chinook mortality quota is in place and the fishery was closed to chinook retention during August 28-31 to ensure that this quota was not exceeded.
- Through September 12 an estimated 6,000 chinook and 20,400 coho have been landed by 66,400 anglers.
- Effort has declined to less than 500 angler trips per day and season catches are expected to total 6,200 chinook and 23,500 coho.

### ***Below Bonneville Dam***

- Mainstem Columbia (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and adipose fin clipped coho on August 1. The preliminary catch estimate during August is 3,900 chinook from 45,300 angler trips.
- The chinook catch of 6,200 from 65,900 angler trips through September 11 is on track to catch an estimated 8,800 chinook.
- Effort peaked in late August and early September with weekend aerial counts ranging between 850 and 1,150 boats angling for salmon in the lower Columbia River.
- After September 11 effort is expected decline and catch rates have been 1 chinook per every 5 boats.
- An estimated 4,400 marked steelhead were kept and 2,100 unmarked steelhead (210 mortalities) were released during August 1-September 11. During the month of August the marked steelhead catch was comprised of 94% Group A index fish and 6% Group B index fish.

- Good catches of hatchery coho are occurring in the lower Cowlitz, Toutle, Kalama, and Lewis rivers. Most Washington lower Columbia tributaries are closed for chinook retention, except for the Kalama and Elokomin rivers.

### ***Above Bonneville Dam***

- For the month of August the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had resulted in 84 adult chinook kept, 7 jack chinook kept, 3 coho kept, 195 hatchery steelhead kept, and 361 wild steelhead released from 2,260 angler trips.
- Chinook catches are improving at the mouth of the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers.
- Steelhead catches have declined in the Bonneville Pool tributaries. Increasing numbers of fall chinook and hatchery coho are appearing in the catches.
- Last week, Hanford boat anglers averaged one adult chinook for every 3.7 anglers. WDFW sampled nearly four times as many adult chinook last week than during the same time last year.

## **Commercial Fishery Updates**

### ***Lower River Fisheries***

<b><i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update</i></b>							
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
IJB	369	2,603					
BPH	123	484					
MCB	353	2,159					
LRH	550	298					
LRW	0	0					
LRB	0	216					
SAB	31	0					
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>5,832</i>	<i>1,493</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>39</i>
Coho	1	161	14,345	6,045	639	1,335	56
Chum	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	2,357	301	73	30	0	0	0
G. Sturgeon	472	5	0	0	0	0	0

- White sturgeon landings have totaled 5,500 which leaves 4,500 on the 10,000 catch guideline.

### ***Youngs Bay Select Area Fishery***

- The Young's Bay Select Area fishery is open 7 days/week from September 5 through October 31.
- Chinook catch is decreasing and coho catch improved last week, as is expected for the time of the year.
- Preseason expectations were for landings of 35,000 coho and 1,000 chinook.

### ***Other Select Area Fisheries***

- The Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River fisheries opened on September 5 and the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough fisheries opened September 7. All fisheries are scheduled to continue through the end of October except for Steamboat Slough which ends on October 28.
- Catch expectations for the season are 10,000 coho in Deep River and 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Steamboat Slough.

### ***Monofilament Test Fishery***

- At the July 27 Compact hearing, industry representatives requested that single strand monofilament gear be allowed in mainstem coho commercial fisheries during the fall of 2000.
- Based on testimony at the July 27 Compact hearing, Joint Staff was directed to meet with industry representatives to discuss use of single strand monofilament gill nets in Columbia River commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam.
- A meeting on August 15 between Joint Staff and with industry representatives produced the following conclusions:
  - 1) Gear restrictions should not be changed for fall 2000 fisheries to allow time for an orderly conversion to this gear.
  - 2) Adopt test fishery for fall to collect data concerning possible differences in chinook and coho catch rates and size selectivity between different single strand monofilament and conventional gear.
  - 3) Joint Staff and industry leaders should meet in November to consider results of test fishery and use of single strand monofilament gear in 2001 fisheries.
- Test fishing occurred on September 12 and 13 in Zones 1 and 2.
- Catches in Zone 1 totaled 0 chinook and 3 coho from 3 drifts with single strand monofilament gear and 3 chinook and 14 coho from 5 drifts with conventional gear.
- Catches in Zone 2 totaled 81 adult coho (20 per drift), 6 adult chinook, and 5 steelhead from 4 drifts with single strand monofilament gear and 101 adult coho (25 per drift) 10 adult chinook and 6 steelhead from 4 drifts from conventional gear.

### ***Tooth Net Fishery***

- Fishery is scheduled to occur during September 12-15 in Zone 2.
- Catches during September 12-14 totaled 51 adult coho and 5 adult chinook for 8 drifts using tooth net gear as compared to conventional gear which landed 78 adult coho and 10 adult chinook for 8 drifts.
- Immediate adult coho mortalities have totaled 5 (10%) in tooth net gear and 8 (13%) in conventional gear.

## Treaty Indian Fishery

<b>Zone 6 Preliminary Catch Composition</b>							
Dates		Total				Total	Wild
		Chinook	URB	BPH	MCB	Steelhead	A Index B Index
Aug C&S		225	165	20	40	2,660	400 60
Aug 30- Sep 2	Ticket	12,560				1,050	
	Non-Ticket	2,270				870	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>14,830</i>	<i>9,350</i>	<i>2,870</i>	<i>1,785</i>	<i>1,920</i>	<i>360 110</i>
Sep 5-9	Ticket	15,400				2,950	
	Non-Ticket	4,750				310	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>20,150</i>	<i>12,790</i>	<i>2,210</i>	<i>4,480</i>	<i>3,260</i>	<i>550 240</i>
Sep 12-16	<i>Proj. Total</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>6,480</i>	<i>2,010</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>4,900</i>	<i>700 380</i>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>45,005</b>	<b>28,785</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>2,010 790</b>

- During the first two fishing periods, landings included 1,950 coho, 140 white sturgeon, and 35 walleye.
- Ticketed landings during September 12-13 are estimated to be 2,575 chinook, 1,030 steelhead, 450 coho, and 5 walleye.

<b>1999 Zone 6 Set Net Counts</b>						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Sep 3	none	219	136	143	498	366 on 9/3/99 and 473 on 9/3/98
Sep 5-9	none		No Counts			466 on 9/9/99 and 378 on 9/10/98
Sep 13	None	209	195	222	626	468 on 9/16/99 and 423 on 9/6/98

## Fishery Proposals

### Non-Indian Fisheries

<b>Proposed Coho Season</b>	
Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Mon Sept 18 7 AM to 7 PM Tue Sept 19 7 AM to 7 PM Wed Sept 20
Area:	Mouth upstream to Longview Bridge
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Elokomina-A, and Abernathy Creek sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	6 inch maximum mesh size restriction Unslackened floater gill nets only
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon
Catch Projections:	20,000 coho 1,500 chinook 100 sturgeon

- Rationale:
  - Allows access to surplus early stock hatchery reared coho salmon.



- In conjunction with proposed chinook season, allows majority of lower river to be open to commercial fishing.
- Closure above Longview Bridge reduces impacts on wild coho destined for the Sandy and Clackamas rivers and LRW fall chinook destined for the Lewis River.
- Daylight only fishing periods and 6" maximum mesh size restrictions limit impacts on fall chinook salmon.
- Impacts on Oregon wild coho are expected to remain within the 13.3% aggregate wild coho limit set forth by the OFWC.
- Catches of URB and LRW fall chinook are expected to remain within their respective catch limits.

<b><i>Proposed Chinook Season</i></b>	
Season:	8 PM Mon September 18 to 6 AM Tue September 19
Area:	From a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No. 4 thence to fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place
Gear:	8 inch minimum and 9-3/4inch maximum mesh size restrictions
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon
Catch Projections:	3,000 chinook 100-200 white sturgeon

- Rationale:
  - Allows access to surplus fall chinook within constraints set forth by federal ESA and Washington's Wild Salmonid policy.
  - In conjunction with proposed coho season, allows majority of lower river to be open to commercial fishing.
  - Closure below Bachelor Island will minimize impacts on LRW fall chinook destined for Lewis River.
  - 8" minimum mesh size restriction will minimize impacts on wild coho salmon destined for the Clackamas and Sandy rivers.

### ***Treaty Indian Fishery***

- The Columbia Treaty tribes have provided the following Zone 6 treaty Indian commercial fishery option.

<b><i>Proposed Season</i></b>	
Season:	6 AM Tue Sept 19 to 6 PM Sat Sept 23
Area:	Bonneville to McNary Dams (Zones 61, 62, and 63).
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in place.
Gear:	No mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, walleye, and shad.
Catch Projections:	7,600 chinook (6,100 URB's, 250 BPH's, and 1,200 MCB's) 4,500 steelhead (770 wild A index and 340 wild B index).

- The tribal fishery through September 23 is projected to have a 21.2% harvest rate on URB's and 10.2% harvest rate impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

Summary of Fishery Impacts					
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts		Wild Steelhead Impacts	
		No.	%	Group B Index	
				No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries					
August C&S	225	165	0.1	60	
Commercial thru Sep 16	44,780	28,770	17.6	730	
Proposed Commercial	7,610	6,130	3.7	340	
Late Fall C&S	880	730	0.5	290	
Treaty Indian Total	53,495	35,795	21.9	1,420	12.9
Non-Indian Fisheries					
August Sturgeon Commercial	1,700	370	0.23	1	
August 2S Commercial	5,830	2,600	1.59	37	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	1,820	60	0.03	0	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	6,200	1,160	0.71	2	
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	8,800	5,400	3.27	35	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	650	600	0.37	100	
Remaining Commercial Fisheries	8,450	3,370	2.06	23	
Non-Indian Total	33,250	13,560	8.25	198	1.8
Grand Total	86,745	49,355	30.15	1,618	14.7

## **Next Compact Hearing**

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact be scheduled for September 22, 2000 at 10 AM at ODFW Headquarters Commission room in Portland to update salmon and steelhead stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
September 15, 2000